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BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

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ANNUAL REPORT

on the

Health of the Borough

for the year

1964

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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF THE BOROUGH

FOR THE YEAR

1934

by

D.J.N. McNAB, V.R.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

and

F. Le V. FRIEND, S.R.N., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing
Superintendent

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1964

Councillor R. Affleck (Chairman) (January - December)

His Worship the Mayor Councillor J.R. Bell (January - December)

Alderman Miss E.I. Padwick (January - December)

Councillor K.L. Smith (January - December)

Councillor M. Lynk (July - December)

Councillor Miss C. Sharp (January - December)

Councillor T. Staniforth (January - December)

Councillor Mrs. I.A. Stevenson (January - December)

Councillor L.W. Claxton (June - December)

Councillor H.R. Bourke (January - April)

Councillor A.H. Udall (January - April)

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

D.J.N. McNAB, V.R.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Also Medical Officer of Health of the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge and Borough of Lymington and an Assistant County Medical Officer for the County of Hampshire

Address: Druitt Buildings, Christchurch, Hants.

Telephone No: Christchurch 900.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

F. Le V. Friend, S.R.N., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

D.J. Cartridge, Cert. S.I.B.,

A.F. Saunders, Cert. S.I.B.,

BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1964

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

I submit for your information and consideration my eighteenth Annual Report of the health and sanitary circumstances of your Borough.

As an integral part of this Report there follows the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector on those sections of the work of the Health Department with which he is specially concerned.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS:

The Borough of Christchurch lies at the confluence of the rivers Avon and Stour where there has been a human settlement since prehistoric times. The existing town grew up around the ancient Norman Priory, slowly at one time but very rapidly in recent years, so that now there is a sharp contrast between the old and the new. The Town has therefore a unique character and this, in conjunction with its notable geographical advantages and its equable climate, make it indeed a favoured area.

The population is now $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the total of 1932 when the town achieved its present boundary and it has almost doubled in the last 20 years. Much of this has been by immigration, partly of people who come here to retire, but also of workers attracted by our modern industries.

Industry is perhaps unusually diversified; the aircraft industry directly or indirectly still dominates employment but new industries are coming in and the general outlook is not unfavourable.

But the shadow of a takeover bid looms over our ancient town.

RAINFALL FOR 1964:

		<u>Ins.</u>				<u>Ins.</u>
January ..	..	.42	July..	..	..	.59
February..	..	.86	August	..	..	.50
March ..	..	3.73	September	..	..	.78
April ..	..	1.92	October	..	..	2.24
May ..	..	4.35	November	..	..	1.77
June ..	..	2.96	December	..	..	2.80

TOTAL: 22.92 inches.

GENERAL STATISTICS:

Area: 4,807 acres (Census 1961)

Population: Registrar-General's estimate for mid-year 1964: 28,000.

Number of inhabited houses: 9,845.

Rateable value: 31.3.64: £1,454,423.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £5,598. 3s. 10d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1964: (as supplied by the Registrar-General)

			<u>Borough of</u>	<u>England and</u>	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Christchurch</u>	<u>Wales</u>

LIVE BIRTHS:

Total	382	198	184
Legitimate	346	181	165
Illegitimate	36	17	19

LIVE BIRTH RATE:(Comparability factor 1.22)

per 1,000 population ...	...	13.6	18.4
after application of comparability factor		16.6	

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Borough of</u> <u>Christchurch</u>	<u>England and</u> <u>Wales</u>
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ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS:

per cent of total live births ... 9.4

STILL BIRTHS:

Total	3	2	1
Legitimate	3	2	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

STILL BIRTH RATE:

per 1,000 total (live & still) births 7.8 16.3

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS: 385.

INFANT DEATHS:

Deaths under one year of age

Total	3	2	1
Legitimate	3	2	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Deaths under 4 weeks of age

Total	1	1	-
Legitimate	1	1	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Deaths under one week of age

Total	1	1	-
Legitimate	1	1	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

INFANT MORTALITY RATE:

per 1,000 live births - Total 7.8 20.0
per 1,000 live births - Legitimate 8.7
per 1,000 live births - Illegitimate Nil

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Borough of Christchurch</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
<u>NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE:</u>					
(Deaths under 4 weeks)					
per 1,000 live births	...	...		2.6	13.8
<u>EARLY NEONATAL MORTALITY RATE:</u>					
(Deaths under 1 week)					
per 1,000 live births	...	...		2.6	
<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE:</u>					
(Stillbirths and Deaths under 1 week combined)					
per 1,000 total (live & still) births				10.4	
<u>MATERNAL DEATHS:</u> (Including abortion)				Nil	
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE:</u>					
per 1,000 total (live & still) births				Nil	0.25
<u>DEATHS:</u>	377	203	174		
<u>DEATH RATE:</u> (Comparability factor 0.72)					
per 1,000 population	...	...		13.5	11.3
after application of comparability factor				9.7	
<u>SPECIAL CAUSES:</u>					
<u>Death rate per 1,000 population</u>					
Tuberculosis	...	...		Nil	0.05
Cancer (lung and bronchus)				0.71	0.53
Cancer (all causes)				2.75	2.21

CAUSES OF DEATH:

					<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	...	...	...	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other...	...	...	...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease ...	...	...	...	-	-
4.	Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infection ...	...	...	...	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis...	...	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles ...	...	...	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	1	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach..	...	...	...	4	-
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus...	...	...	...	15	5
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast...	...	...	...	-	5
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus...	...	...	...	-	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	21	24
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	...	...	...	2	-
16.	Diabetes ...	...	...	...	-	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system...	...	...	...	15	37
18.	Coronary disease, angina ...	...	...	...	65	26
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	2	1
20.	Other heart disease...	...	...	...	11	22
21.	Other circulatory disease ...	...	...	...	8	14
22.	Influenza ...	...	...	...	-	-
23.	Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	21	13
24.	Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	10	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.	...	...	...	2	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea...	...	...	...	-	2
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	...	...	...	1	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate ...	...	...	...	3	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations ...	...	...	...	2	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	12	10
33.	Motor vehicle accidents ...	...	...	...	4	2
34.	All other accidents...	...	...	...	2	5
35.	Suicide ...	...	...	...	2	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	-	-
Total (all causes) ...					203	174

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS:

Year	Population	Borough of Christchurch			England and Wales		
		I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.	I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.
1929	8,728	49.0	18.6	11.1	74	16.3	13.4
1932	11,250	62.5	17.0	11.3	65	15.3	12.0
1936	13,080	53.1	15.8	12.2	59	14.8	12.1
1940	15,330	24.7	13.1	12.8	55	14.6	14.3
1944	14,810	30.0	22.3	14.2	46	17.6	11.6
1948	19,190	16.0	16.1	11.25	34	17.9	10.8
1952	21,290	21.9	14.9	11.03	27.6	15.3	11.3
1956	23,140	22.6	13.4	13.3	23.8	15.7	11.7
1960	25,580	25.8	13.6	14.3	21.7	17.1	11.5
1961	26,110	20.7	12.9	13.9	21.4	17.4	12.0
1962	26,640	11.9	12.6	15.1	21.4	18.0	11.9
1963	27,180	18.2	14.2	15.2	20.9	18.2	12.2
1964	28,000	7.8	13.6	13.5	20.0	18.4	11.3

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE:

The general incidence of notifiable infectious disease was low.

The cases of Measles were scattered, a few each month, throughout the year.

The cases of Scarlet Fever were sporadic.

For the fifth successive year no case of Poliomyelitis occurred.

Disease	Number notified
Measles	136
Whooping Cough.	14
Pneumonia. ..	3
Scarlet Fever..	9

VIRUS ENTERITIS:

This troublesome ailment was prevalent in the early and latter parts of the year, and one outbreak in a school was so explosive in character that it was in the first place thought to be food poisoning. The illness is usually short lived, perhaps 48 hours, characterised by sudden attacks of vomiting, in the case of children often with no warning, and followed by diarrhoea. It tends to spread through institutions like schools and attacks appear to confer only a brief immunity. Control is ineffective in the present state of our knowledge. The Public Health Laboratory Service is currently engaged in a study of the illness.

TUBERCULOSIS:

		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>
		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
No. on Register at 31.12.64	...	152	109	17	21	299
No. of new notifications	...	2	1	2	-	5
Transfers from other areas	...	4	1	-	-	5
Deaths ...	...	-	-	-	-	-

LUNG CANCER:

20 deaths resulted from lung cancer. 2 of these were under the age of 55 and 9 under the age of 65 of whom 4 were women. The steadily rising death rate among women is worthy of note; while still a long way below that of men it is rising more rapidly than the male rate. This is in keeping with the changed smoking habits of women.

The local and national death rate from this supremely unpleasant and avoidable disease continues to rise. In this Borough the average annual number of deaths over the past five years was 17.6 whereas over the previous five years it was 9.2.

In England and Wales 25,271 persons died of lung cancer in 1964, 949 more than the previous year, and 4,308 more than five years ago. Over the same period of five years, female deaths rose from 2,882 to 3,895. Male deaths have risen by 18% over the five years but female deaths have risen by 35%.

In the light of these disturbing figures, it is perhaps surprising that women's organisations and the powerful women's magazines have not played a more active part in discouraging cigarette smoking, since this has been indicted by successive authoritative reports as the principal cause of lung cancer.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA:

1. Laboratory facilities.

The Borough is very well served by the Public Health Laboratory at Boscombe, which is under the direction of Dr. G.J.G. King.

The following list of specimens from the area, examined at the Laboratory during the year, has been kindly supplied by the Director.

Throat Swab...	...	1
Faeces and Urine	...	29
Ice Cream	...	262
Water...	...	89
Food ...	...	14
Other Sanitary	...	103
Other human...	...	11
Veterinary(lung from pig)		1

510

2. Hospitals.

Christchurch Hospital - acute and chronic. A progressive scheme of modernisation is virtually complete.

The majority of patients from the Borough requiring hospital treatment go to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Bournemouth.

Cases of infectious disease are treated at Alderney Hospital, Poole.

3. Tuberculosis.

The Chest Clinic is held at Christchurch Hospital. The Chest Physician, Dr. Stuart Robertson, holds a joint appointment with the Regional Hospital Board and the County Council. Dr. Robertson is also Director of the Bournemouth Mass Radiography Unit.

A voluntary Care and After Care Committee covers the area served by the Christchurch Clinic i.e. The Boroughs of Christchurch and Lymington, the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge, and a small part of New Forest Rural District. The Committee, under the Chairmanship of Lady Manners is widely representative and much devoted work is carried out, both in the collection of funds and in personal service to a declining number of patients.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL:

1. Ambulance Service.

The area Ambulance Service is run from a main station at "Hillcroft", New Street, Lymington. There are sub-stations at Christchurch, Ringwood and New Milton and all ambulances are under wireless control. In order to ensure the effective use of the available vehicles, requests for service are made to the main station - Telephone Lymington 2331 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Mondays to Fridays and 8 a.m. to 12 noon Saturdays. At other times calls are made to a central control at Winchester Tel. Winchester 61644.

2. Nursing Services.

The Nursing and Midwifery Service is administered locally by the District Health Sub-Committee.

Details of Nurses and their areas:-

<u>District served</u>	<u>Name and address</u>	<u>Service</u>
All unattached Midwifery within Christchurch Borough	Miss M. Ellwood, 2, Rothesay Drive, Highcliffe, Christchurch. Tel. Highcliffe 3426	MIDWIFE
Purewell, Mudeford, and part Somerford.	Miss E. Mitchell, 17, Stanpit, Christchurch. Tel. Christchurch 1204	DISTRICT NURSE/ MIDWIFE
Area West of River Avon, Central Town Area.	Mrs. Gutheridge, 36, Walcott Avenue, Christchurch. Tel. Christchurch 729	DISTRICT NURSE
Christchurch south west and north west	Miss D.H. Powell, 83, The Grove, Christchurch. Tel. Christchurch 1967	DISTRICT NURSE
Attached to Drs. Carr and Wyatt.	Mrs. Q. Boothby, 50, Hunt Road, Christchurch. Tel. Christchurch 1091	DISTRICT NURSE/ MIDWIFE

<u>District served</u>	<u>Name and address</u>	<u>Service</u>
Christchurch south	Miss K. Ella, 13, Edward Road, Christchurch. Tel. Christchurch 2225	DISTRICT NURSE
Christchurch	Mrs. E.G. Sprackland, 12, Carisbrooke Way, Highcliffe, Christchurch. Tel. Highcliffe 2433	DISTRICT NURSE (part-time relief)
Christchurch	Mrs. W.M.L. Jones, 77, Jumpers Road, Christchurch. Tel. Christchurch 383	MIDWIFE (part-time relief)
Attached to Dr. Falkner Lee, Dr. Brooks and Dr. Harcourt Webster	Mrs. I. Sherwood, 2, Bracken Way, Highcliffe, Christchurch. Tel. Highcliffe 3282	DISTRICT NURSE/ MIDWIFE
Attached to Dr. Falkner Lee, Dr. Brooks and Dr. Harcourt Webster	Miss K.I. Webb, 280, Lymington Road, Highcliffe, Christchurch. Tel. Highcliffe 2061	DISTRICT NURSE/ MIDWIFE AND HEALTH VISITOR
<u>Health Visitors.</u>		
Christchurch West (and attached to Drs. Carr and Wyatt)	Mrs. M.A. Tate, 3, Warren Edge Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth. Tel. Bournemouth 47407	
Christchurch East and Mudford.	Miss E.M. Gibbs, 4, Sandy Lane, Christchurch. Tel. Christchurch 2015	
Somerford and Purewell	Miss E. Sheldon, 97, The Grove, Christchurch. Tel. Christchurch 1260	

3. Home Help Service.

The Home Help Service is administered locally by the District Health Sub-Committee.

The Divisional Organiser is Mrs. M. Bowler, Druitt Buildings, Christchurch. Telephone Christchurch 900.

4. Child Welfare Clinics.

<u>Child Welfare Centre</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Time</u>
Christchurch	County Council Health Centre Millhams Street	Every Tuesday 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Somerford	Social Centre Southey Road	Every Wednesday at 2.30 p.m.
Higdeliffe	St. Mark's Hall	First and Third Fridays in month at 2.30 p.m.

5. School Health Service.

School medical inspections are carried out periodically by Assistant County Medical Officers and Health Visitors.

Minor ailment and special clinics are held at the Millhams Street Health Centre.

6. Smallpox Vaccination.

This is carried out free of charge by family doctors and at Child Welfare Clinics. Family doctors may, and normally do, charge for certificates of vaccination.

Up to the end of 1964 the records were maintained by the County Medical Officer, but from January 1965 they will be held by your Medical Officer of Health and the only ones kept will be for children under the age of 16.

241 primary vaccinations and 226 re-vaccinations were reported in 1964. This is a considerable improvement on the previous year's totals, accounted for mainly by a change in the recommended age for infant vaccination.

7. Immunisation against Diphtheria Whooping Cough and Tetanus.

The scheme is administered locally and the records maintained by your Medical Officer of Health on behalf of the County Medical Officer. Treatment is carried out by family doctors and, at Child Welfare Clinics and Schools, by Assistant County Medical Officers.

There was a slight fall in the number of primary immunisations but the total can still be regarded as reasonably satisfactory. The total of refresher doses was the largest ever achieved in this area.

Immunisations completed under 5 years of age..... 295

" " over 5 years of age..... 19

314

Refresher Doses..... 625

Proportion of children born in previous
12 months immunised..... 65.7%

8. Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

The scheme is administered locally and the records maintained by your Medical Officer of Health on behalf of the County Medical Officer. Treatment is largely carried out by family doctors. Treatment is also given by Assistant County Medical Officers at Child Welfare Clinics.

1964

ORAL VACCINE

Number who received three doses..... 389

Number who received re-inforcing doses... 232

SILK VACCINE

Number who received third doses..... 7

Number who received fourth doses..... 23

QUADRI LIN

Primary Courses.....	8
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SCHOOLS:

The tendency, noted in previous years, for an increasing number of children to remain at the Secondary Schools for a full five years has continued. The Secondary Schools remain full and further extensions at Twynham are in an advanced stage.

The open air swimming pools at Christchurch Junior, Highcliffe Junior and Twynham Secondary have been fully utilised and a further pool to serve the Somerford Schools, together with Mudford and Burton, is planned.

WATER:

Christchurch is supplied with water by the West Hampshire Water Company whose works are situated within the Borough. The company, in addition, supplies part of Bournemouth, the whole of the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge, part of the New Forest Rural District and part of the Borough of Lymington. Partially treated water in bulk is also pumped to the oil refinery at Fawley.

The raw water is drawn from the River Avon at Christchurch and treated by rapid and slow sand filtration and super chlorination. In addition the company has a source of supply from deep boreholes in the chalk at Hale Park, some 16 miles north of Christchurch near the Wiltshire border. This supply serves Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District and also supplements the supply in Christchurch.

Raw and treated waters are examined daily at the Company's own water testing laboratory which is in charge of a qualified chemist and bacteriologist. In addition, periodic independent samples are sent to an outside laboratory.

The supply of water to the consumer is constant, of moderate hardness, free from plumbo solvent action, and entirely free from metals.

The Company's records show 9,640 separately assessed domestic dwellings to be supplied from their mains in Christchurch. No standpipes are in use.

A typical result of an examination of the treated water is shown below:-

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER received 30.11.64

from WEST HAMPSHIRE WATER COMPANY

Chemical results in parts per million

Appearance:	Clear and bright.	
Turbidity:	Nil.	
Colour:	5.	Odour: Nil.
pH:	7.7.	Free Carbon Dioxide: 7.
Electric Conductivity:	425.	Dissolved Solids dried at 180°C: 295.
Chlorine present as Chloride:	20.	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate: 185.
Hardness: Total	240.	Carbonate: 185. Non-carbonate: 55.
Nitrate Nitrogen:	4.2.	Nitrite Nitrogen: absent.
Ammoniacal Nitrogen:	0.01.	Oxygen Absorbed: 0.90.
Albuminoid Nitrogen:	0.03.	Residual Chlorine: absent.
Metals:	Iron, Zinc, Copper, Lead :	absent.

Bacteriological Results.

	(1 day at 37°C:	2 days at 37°C:	3 days at 20-22°C:
Number of colonies(developing on Agar(	1 per ml	2 per ml	1 per ml
	<u>Present in</u>	<u>Absent from</u>	<u>Probable number</u>
Presumptive Coliform reaction	- ml	100 ml	0 per 100 ml
Bact. Coli. (Type 1)	- ml	100 ml	0 per 100 ml
Cl. Welchii reaction	- ml	100 ml	

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It is of a high standard of organic quality and bacterial purity.

These results are considered satisfactory and indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic uses.

SEWERAGE:

The Christchurch Works remain overloaded but there has been no further deterioration in the position and indeed the situation has improved in so far that the digesters have been working more satisfactorily. A scheme to enlarge the Works has been prepared by the Consultant and was the subject of a public local enquiry in August. At the time of writing approval in principle has just been received from the Ministry.

All available means are being taken to maintain the Works in an efficient state, and further digester capacity is being constructed in advance of the main extensions in order to minimise nuisance. The most serious problems during the year continued to be those of odour and sludge drying, and again odour control materials and chemicals to assist sludge drying have been in use.

The plans for the Jumpers Scheme have been completed and Ministry approval received. At the time of writing tenders are being sought.

The position at Mudeford is unchanged and this area will be the next to receive attention.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES:

Routine supervision of food premises, with particular regard to the Food Hygiene Regulations, remains an important part of the duties of the Public Health Inspectors. Visits of this sort may at times be combined with visits under other legislation such as the recent Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. The general high standard of food handling has been maintained in our food shops and catering premises.

4 successful prosecutions were undertaken in respect of a variety of food offences.

HOUSING:

276 private houses were built during the year as compared with 299 in 1963. In addition, 96 dwellings were constructed for old people by the Christchurch Old People's Welfare and Housing Society. Council construction completed consisted of 3 houses, though more were on the verge of completion at the end of the year.

The following details relating to housing accommodation and the current waiting list have been kindly supplied by the Housing Officer-Mrs. M. Clark.

Families housed in Council accommodation: 49

There were 316 applicants on the housing list, made up as follows:-

<u>No. in family</u>	<u>No. of applicants</u>	<u>Total personnel</u>
1	8	8
2	72	144
3	90	270
4	37	148
5	16	80
7	4	28
8	1	8
	<u>228</u>	<u>686</u>

Applications from Revvo Castor Co: 3
 " " Shand Kydd Ltd.: 65
 Hampshire County Council (Nurse) : 1

Applicants for Old People's Dwellings

Strete Mount	9
Sydney Road	4
Gordon Mount	6

Applicants on General List

<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>
256	254	277	259	316

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948: SECTION 47:

No case was considered for action.

GENERAL REMARKS:

The health of the Borough was satisfactory throughout the year.

The general incidence of notifiable disease was low.

The estimated mid-year population increased by 820 to 28,000. For the first time since 1957 births exceeded deaths, due mainly to a fall in the death rate.

The birth rate fell and even after correction was well below the national rate.

There were only three infant deaths during the year and the infant mortality rate was the lowest ever recorded in this area.

The death rate fell and was the lowest since 1957.

The number of lung cancer deaths remained high.

My sincere thanks are due to colleagues in other departments for their advice and assistance and above all to Mr. Friend and his staff for their loyal co-operation at all times.

D.J.N. McMB.

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1965

BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

R E P O R T

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

AND

CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

FOR THE YEAR

1964

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH

I present to you my 24th Annual Report covering the work of the department during the year ended 31st December 1964. The cost statement in respect of refuse collection and disposal is for the period 1st April 1964 to 31st March 1965.

There has been a further increase in the population, the Registrar General's Return for mid-June, 1964, being 28,000, an increase of 820.

The construction of 375 dwellings during the year, coupled with the increase in population, the influx of summer visitors and the difficulties experienced in recruiting staff have made it impossible to maintain a weekly collection of refuse.

Details of inspections made by your Inspectors are given in Table 1.

HOUSING - RECONDITIONING.

The reconditioning of properties has always been a problem, not only because of the cost of such works, but mainly due to the fact that the extensive development of new estates makes it extremely difficult to find builders prepared to undertake this class of work.

Repairs were carried out to eight properties at the request of the department. Six were dealt with informally.

There is no doubt that the increase in rent permitted by the Rent Act has helped to ease the situation, and in the course of one's journeyings in the borough one sees work being done which, prior to the Rent Act, would undoubtedly have resulted from action taken by the Health Department. This is all to the good, and if this voluntary reconditioning can be maintained, the number of properties deteriorating to the point where it is no longer economical to maintain them will be considerably reduced.

From my own experience of the working of the Rent Act, there appears to be either a great deal of apathy on the part of tenants or, alternatively, agreement is being reached with the landlords. I favour the latter theory, and this is supported by the remarks in the previous paragraph.

During the seven years since the Act came into being, 33 applications have been received, the last being on the 9th June 1964. 16 certificates have been granted. Of these 9 have been cancelled on application by landlords following the completion of the repairs.

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES.

The supervision of the preparation, storage, and distribution of food is one of the primary duties of the department, and one to which your Inspectors give a good deal of attention. Certain standards are laid down in the Food Hygiene Regulations and your Inspectors endeavour to ensure that these standards are complied with.

Members of the public are becoming "hygiene conscious", and deal at premises which in their opinion maintain a high standard, not only in the quality of the goods but also in the methods of displaying them. This has the effect of ensuring that traders do their utmost to make their premises attractive and increase their trade.

Generally speaking, the food premises in the borough are a credit to the traders and I am satisfied that a high standard is maintained.

The number of food premises, excluding hotels and clubs, is 267. The breakdown is as under:-

Grocers	66
Greengrocer and Fruiterer	24
Baker and Confectioner	12
Sweets	42
Fishmonger and Fryer	12
Butcher	20
Cafe and Restaurant	42
Works and School Canteens	23
Licensed Premises	26

296 premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act.

- 181 are registered for the sale of ice cream
- 2 are registered for the storage of ice cream
- 43 are registered for the preparation of sausages, cooked meats and pickled meats
- 1 is registered for the manufacture of sausages, and cooked and preserved meats
- 12 are registered for the preparation of fish by any process of cooking
- 57 premises registered for the purpose have discontinued the sale of ice cream

FOOD INSPECTION.

Close liaison exists between the traders and the department, and any food which the trader is doubtful about is set aside and the advice of your Inspectors is sought as to its suitability for human consumption. This ensures that food of doubtful quality is withdrawn, such food being voluntarily surrendered. With the exception of meat, which is disposed of to manufacturers of animal feeding stuffs, all unsound food is disposed of at the refuse tip. The following is a list of food surrendered during the year:-

1203 lbs.	Meat
388 tins	Meat
70 lbs.	Pigs Rind
11 lbs.	Poultry
470 lbs.	Sausages
2 tins	Sausages
85 lbs.	Bacon
193 tins	Fruit
317 tins	Vegetables
81 tins	Fish
17 tins	Milk
5 tins	Cream
6 tins	Jams
18 tins	Soup
8 tins	Miscellaneous Foods
7 jars	Miscellaneous Foods
6 packets	Jelly
100	Oysters

SAMPLING - FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

The sampling of food and drugs for adulteration is the responsibility of the County Council. Their Chief Inspector, Mr. J.S. Preston, performs these duties and I am indebted to him for the following details of samples taken during the year ended 31st March 1965.

"1. I beg to report that during the year ended the 31st March 1965, 63 samples were procured under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, within the Borough of Christchurch.

2. Milk Samples.

42 samples of milk, including 9 of Channel Islands, were obtained and all were satisfactory.

3. Miscellaneous Samples.

21 samples of articles other than milk were taken, of which two were the subject of minor complaint:-

A sample of Fork Sausages proved to contain 190 parts per million of sulphur dioxide preservative, although its presence was not declared by notice, as required by the Preservatives in Food Regulations. The amount was within that permitted, however, and, in the circumstances, further action was not considered necessary but the vendor's attention was drawn to the requirements.

Another sample of Fork Sausages was slightly deficient in meat content, 62 per cent of meat being present instead of the normally expected amount of 65 per cent. The deficiency did not call for serious action but a warning was given to the producer concerned.

4. General.

In conjunction with work under the Food and Drugs Act, attention was given to the requirements of the Labelling of Food Order and the Pharmacy and Medicines Act with regard to their application to the labelling

and descriptions of food and drugs. No matters of serious consequence occurred but a number of minor irregularities were brought to the notice of the persons responsible."

MILK SUPPLY.

Other than a slight decrease in the number of persons retailing milk the position is much the same as in the previous year, all milk retailed in the borough being bottled at establishments outside your district.

The following list shows the number of dairies and persons registered as distributors, and the number and type of licences in force:-

Number of distributors of milk	85
Number of dairies on register	3
Dealers licensed to use the designation Tuberculin Tested Milk	24
Dealers licensed to use the designation Pasteurised Milk	72
Dealers licensed to use the designation Sterilised Milk	23

ICE CREAM.

Large quantities of ice cream are consumed each day, and there is no doubt that the exceptionally fine weather experienced over a long period last year resulted in increased sales of this article of diet.

This commodity is particularly susceptible to contamination and the less it is handled the better. Fortunately, most of the ice cream sold in the borough is pre-packed, the use of bulk ice cream being restricted to hotels and restaurants.

262 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, the results being as follows:-

Grade 1	188
Grade 2	49
Grade 3	15
Grade 4	10

DRAINAGE.

Extensive development in several parts of the borough gives rise to much drainage work, all of which has to be carefully supervised and tested if sub-soil water is to be excluded.

As will be seen by reference to Table 1, your Inspectors made a total of 1,382 visits in connection with this work, an increase of 296 over the previous year.

The number of properties not drained to sewers, and the facilities available are:-

Draining to Septic Tanks	89
Draining to Cesspools	56
Bucket Latrines	29

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

There is no doubt that caravan holidays are becoming more and more popular, the south coast attracting more than its fair share of this type of holiday accommodation. It can safely be said that the number wishing to spend their holidays in this manner will continue to increase, and when one considers the freedom attaching to this type of holiday, the reason for its popularity becomes apparent.

Because of housing difficulties, and for economic reasons in many cases, some families occupy their vans all the year round.

There are 13 commercial sites. All have modern sanitary conveniences and drainage in every case is to the sewer.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

Some provisions of the Act came into operation in February, May and August 1964.

The object of the Act may be said to be the securing of healthy and safe working conditions for persons employed in offices and shops, and the duty to see that the requirements of the Act are complied with is that of the Local Authority or, in some cases, the Factory Inspector.

Employers whose premises were affected were required to register the premises with the Local Authority or the Factory Inspector, application to be made on Forms prepared by the Ministry; such applications in respect of premises in which persons were employed on the 1st May 1964 to be made before the 1st August 1964.

As it frequently happens that persons are unaware of the coming into operation of Acts or regulations affecting their premises, the necessary steps to make the Act known were taken by the department and the response was extremely good.

By the end of the year 376 premises had been registered, and your Inspectors had inspected 71 of them, making 420 visits in the process.

The premises registered at the end of the year were as follows:-

Offices	89
Retail Shops	232
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses ...	4
Catering Establishments	50
Fuel Storage Depots	1

Class of workplace and the number of persons employed:-

Offices	500
Retail Shops	866
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses	36
Catering Establishments	383
Fuel Storage Depots	2

A total of 1,787, of which 1,105 are females.

PET ANIMALS ACT.

Three persons are licensed to keep a Pet Shop. The conditions under which such pets are permitted to be exposed for sale were agreed with the R.S.P.C.A. some time ago and your Inspectors ensure that these are complied with.

SWIMMING POOLS.

Three schools are provided with swimming pools.

At the request of the County Medical Officer of Health, samples of the water are taken regularly during the period of the year when the pools are in use, such samples being submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination.

In a Memorandum prepared by the Public Health Laboratory Service, it is stated:

"Since swimming-bath water may inadvertently become drinking water, particularly where school children are concerned, it is desirable that, wherever possible, the water in swimming baths should reach the standard of drinking water."

It is further suggested that "no sample should contain any coliform organisms in 100 ml of water; that in 75 per cent of the samples examined the 24 hour plate count at 37 degrees C. from 1 ml of water should not exceed 10 colonies and that in the remainder the count should not exceed 100 colonies."

59 samples were taken during the year. 11 of these were found to contain coliform bacilli; the plate count in 12 samples was above the recommended standard, and Bacterium Coli Type I (faecal type) were present in 8.

These adverse reports were discussed with the school authorities; chlorination was stepped up and repeat samples taken. These proved to be up to standard.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) Refuse Collection.

As stated in the introduction to this report, difficulty is being experienced in maintaining a regular collection of refuse. Whereas for many years the day and time of collection varied but little, for the last three years, due to staffing difficulties, the position has become progressively worse, intervals between collection being as much as 12 days.

An increase of more than 800 in the population, and the erection of 375 new dwellings during the year, has added to the difficulties previously experienced. This is particularly noticeable during the summer months when the caravan sites and beaches are fully used.

It is quite apparent that the present permitted labour force of 14 collectors is inadequate. It becomes even more apparent when absence due to holidays and/or sickness is taken into account, two men being away for the greater part of the year. With the coming into operation of the 40 hour week in January next, the situation will be even more difficult. On the other hand, repeated appeals to the Ministry of Labour for men for this class of work have met with but little success, the type of person they have been able to send, mostly men from the Reception Centre at Hurn, proving quite unsuitable and leaving after a few days, usually without giving notice.

Repeated advertisements for staff have proved equally unsuccessful.

I am satisfied that everything that can be done to improve the present unsatisfactory position is being done, and that it is now virtually impossible to recruit men for this class of work.

These problems are not peculiar to Christchurch. The same difficulties are to be found in many parts of the country and they will continue to be with us until such time as the value of the service performed by refuse collectors is recognised on a national basis. Then, and only then, will men be prepared to undertake this work.

Let us not delude ourselves in thinking that making the work more attractive by the introduction of "dustless loading" vehicles or by the use of "paper sacks" will alone attract men. Much as these improvements in working conditions may be appreciated, what is of importance to the men is the "take home" pay which at present compares unfavourably with that of others employed in industry. This, I think, is the key to the problem, and the sooner it is appreciated the better.

As this is the last report I shall prepare, I wish to place on record my very sincere appreciation of the manner in which the permanent members of the collection staff have carried out their duties, often under difficult conditions. They are a very loyal

body of men who, over the years, have given of their best and without whose support an already difficult job would have been even more difficult.

Many of them have been with me for very many years. They are the mainstay of the service and I wish them well in the future.

(b) Refuse Disposal.

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on land at Rotten Row Meadows. This land is frequently waterlogged and, contrary to the recommendations of the Ministry of Health, refuse is being tipped in water. This results in the production of hydrogen sulphide, a particularly evil-smelling compound. Fortunately, the tipping area is at present some distance from dwellings and no complaints have been received. It could well be that as and when the tip reaches a point where it is rather close to the properties in Bridge Street, special precautions will need to be taken.

As in previous years, all available soil on the area to be reclaimed has been removed and stockpiled for future use. Because of the boggy nature of the site, this has to be done during the dry season, usually between July and September, an area sufficient to meet the needs of the department for a year being prepared.

Whereas a few years ago the bays into which the refuse is deposited were capable of accommodating all refuse brought to the tip for periods of up to three months, bays of identical capacity are now being filled in about seven weeks, a pointer to the increase in the amount and bulky nature of refuse now being collected.

(c) Staff.

During the period under review 20 men, including the foreman, were employed in the collection and disposal of refuse. The distribution is as follows:-

Foreman (driving most of the time);
4 drivers; 13 loaders; 1 loading
shovel driver; 1 tip attendant.

There were many periods during the year when, due to a combination of holidays, sickness and absenteeism, only 10 loaders were at work.

(d) Transport.

Some of the vehicles under my control have been in service for many years, have reached the end of their useful life, and should be replaced.

Vehicles engaged in this type of work are by the very nature of the work subject to rough usage, and their useful life is usually considered to be about 7 years. Beyond this period they are subject to repeated breakdown and are costly to maintain.

Of the 6 lorries in use, 2 have been in service for 9 years and 1 for 14 years. They have outlived their useful life and should be replaced by vehicles of greater capacity. It is suggested that provision should be made in the estimates for the year 1966/67. There will always be a use for a 10 or 12 cu.yard side loader, preferably with detachable canopy, and any replacements should include one of this type.

I took delivery of the second 50 yard Pakamatic in November 1964.

The transport in use is as under:-

1 Shelvoke and Drewry 50 cu. yd. Pakamatic ..	8 months old
1 Shelvoke and Drewry 50 cu. yd. Pakamatic ..	20 months old
2 Shelvcke and Drewry Fore and Aft Tippers ..	9 years old
1 Shelvoke and Drewry Side Loader	14 years old
1 Karrier Side Loader	4 years old
1 Weatherill Loading Shovel	3 years old

(e) Costs.

COST STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 1964/65
AS SUBMITTED TO THE MINISTRY OF
HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

ITEM	PARTICULARS	COLLEC- TION	DIS- POSAL	TOTALS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL GROSS EXPENDITURE
	1	2	3	4	5
		£	£	£	%
1	<u>REVENUE ACCOUNT</u> GROSS EXPENDITURE:				
	(i) Labour	10309	1387	11696	51
	(ii) Transport	7230	2275	9505	42
	(iii) Plant, equipment, land & buildings	1006	148	1154	5
	(iv) Other items	1	568	569	2
	(v) Total gross expenditure	18546	4378	22924	100
2	GROSS INCOME	145	1221	1366	-
3	NET COST	18401	3157	21558	-
4	Capital expenditure met from revenue (included above)	-	-	-	
	<u>UNIT COSTS</u>	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
5	Gross cost per ton, labour only	23. 3.	2. 7.	25.10.	
6	Gross cost per ton, transport only	16. 4.	4. 2.	20. 6.	
7	Net cost (all expenditure) per ton	41. 6.	5.10.	47. 4.	
		£	£	£	
8	Net cost per 1000 population	657	113	770	
9	Net cost per 1000 premises	1765	303	2068	

SALVAGE.

For many years I experienced no difficulty in find suitable labour for baling paper and rags. In July 1964 the man who had done this work for some years left to better himself and it has been found impossible to replace him.

For some months all waste material was taken to the tip, and this is reflected in the low income £580.

Later in the year it was found possible to dispose of this material in its loose state, and this method of disposal still obtains. As this has the effect of producing a reasonable income at but little cost to the Council, I suggest that the system be continued.

RODENT CONTROL.

It is the duty of the Local Authority to ensure that steps are taken by owners or occupiers to keep their premises free from rats and mice.

Although the onus is on owners, in practice it is preferable that this work should be done by the Local Authority.

As well as dealing with premises in respect of which complaints have been lodged by the occupiers, Mr. Cox, your Rodent Officer, carries out surveys in all parts of the borough to ascertain the degree of infestation and deal with this pest wherever found.

At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, test baits were laid in 36 sewer manholes. None was found to be infested.

As in previous years, Quarterly and Annual Returns were submitted to the Ministry. A summary of the year's work is shown hereunder:-

Number of premises inspected	646
Number of premises infested	493
Number of dwellings treated	426
Number of business premises treated	22
Number of Agricultural Premises treated	2
Number of Local Authority premises treated	10
TOTAL number of visits	2300
Estimated number of rats and mice destroyed ...	2004

FACTORIES.

There are 123 factories in the borough.

The Local Authority is responsible for the administration of some sections of the Factories Act, and your Inspectors made 179 visits during the year.

In general, these premises are well maintained.

There is close liaison between the department and the Factory Inspector who draws the attention of the Local Authority to defects of which he becomes aware, if such defects are among those required to be dealt with by the Local Authority.

SUMMARY.

The standard of housing in the borough is good.

Food Hygiene is at a satisfactory level.

Rodent control is effective.

Refuse collection is unsatisfactory.

Atmospheric pollution presents no problem.

I wish to express my thanks to the Mayor and Members of the Council; to Dr. McNab and colleagues in other departments for their help and advice. My special thanks are due to the members of my department for their loyalty and understanding throughout many years of service with the Council.

FRANCIS LE V. FRIEND.

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent.

"Stour Cottage",
20, Barrack Road,
Christchurch.

August 1965.

T A B L E 1.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Housing Visits	37
Revisits	309
Housing Overcrowding	24
Drainage Visits	1382
Revisits	1125
Nuisances	170
Revisits	349
Unsound Food	139
Revisits	59
Food Premises	232
Revisits	44
Food Poisoning	10
Ice Cream	24
Revisits	96
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	7
Revisits	3
Ice Cream Samples	273
Ice Cream Server Rinse Water	29
Infectious Diseases	21
Verminous Premises	27
Revisits	41
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	411
Factories	161
Revisits	18
Outworkers	78
School Canteens	11
Public Conveniences	55
Houseboats	4
Vans, Tents, etc.	15
Camping Sites	53
Revisits	41
Shops (Shops Act)	175
Offices	9
Defective Refuse Bins	245
Refuse Collection and Disposal	297
Salvage	19
Rodent Control	2302
Closet Accommodation	7
Pet Animals Act	7
Rivers and Streams	5
Water Samples	11
Swimming Bath Samples	43
Places of entertainment inspected	1
Septic Tanks and Cesspools	1
Revisits	62
Workplaces	1
Unclassified	159

T A B L E 2.

RECORD OF NUISANCES ABATED AND WORK DONE

The following statement shows in detail work carried out under the supervision of the department.

(a) DRAINAGE:--

Number of new buildings drained	159
Number of houses and premises redrained	2
Repairs or amendments to existing drains	53
Drains or gullies unstopped and cleansed	24
Length in yards stoneware drains laid	13977
Manholes and covers provided	1786
Intercepting traps fixed	5
New gully traps fixed	775
Soil pipes and vent shafts fixed	225
Soil pipes and vent shafts repaired	9
Water tests applied	904
Smoke tests applied	147
Colour tests applied	1
Cesspools abolished and drains connected to sewer ...	3
Cesspools emptied	7
Cesspools constructed	1

(b) SANITARY CONVENIENCES AND FITTINGS:--

New W C. accommodation provided	74
New W.C. apartments provided	74
New W.C. pedestals provided	76
W.C.'s cleansed and repaired	4
New flushing cisterns provided	76
Flushing cisterns repaired	1
Baths provided	74
Sinks provided	71
New waste pipes trapped	220
Lavatory basins provided	76

T A B L E 2. (continued)

(c) MISCELLANEOUS:-

Roofs repaired	22
Eaves gutters and downpipes renewed or repaired	17
Yards repaired	1
Damp walls remedied	56
Floors of rooms repaired	14
Windows repaired or renewed	27
Rooms cleansed and refurnished	60
Doors repaired or renewed	16
Dustbins provided	122
Nuisance - smoke and fumes	8
Nuisance - accumulation of manure or refuse	11
Rooms disinfected	7
Premises disinfested	27
Chimney stacks repaired/repointed	6
Wall brickwork repaired/repointed	16
External paintwork	2
Fireplaces repaired/renewed	5
Staircases repaired	4
Ventilated food stores provided	5
Wall plaster repaired	19
Ceiling plaster repaired	18

T A B L E 3.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

During the year complaints were received as detailed below:-

Rats and Mice	312
Food	98
Insects	6
Defective dustbin or absence of	135
Smells	16
Choked drains	6
Defective flue	1
Dampness	8
Defective guttering on roof	3
Dilapidations	1
Cockroaches	1
General defects	1
Fleas and bugs	9
Accumulation of refuse	4
Nuisance from smoke or fumes	12
Nuisance from animals or poultry	2
Unsatisfactory domestic conditions	2
Defective windows and doors	3
Overflowing cesspools and septic tanks	3
Miscellaneous	10

NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED

Table 4 shows the action taken to secure the abatement of nuisances and the removal of conditions prejudicial to health.

T A B L E 4.

Number of Notices Served

NOTICES	OUTSTANDING 31.12.1963.	NUMBER SERVED	COMPLIED WITH	WORK DONE BY L.A. IN DEFAULT	OUTSTANDING 31.12.1964.
Informal	3	13	15	-	1
Statutory	2	3	3	-	2
TOTAL:	5	16	18	-	3

SUMMARY OF STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED:-

Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936 -
Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936 3

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1964 FOR

THE BOROUGH OF CHRISTCHURCH IN THE COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the
Factories Act, 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as
to health (including inspections made by Public
Health Inspectors).

PREMISES:	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	14	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	115	165	-	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises) ..	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	123	179	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted:
	Found	Remedied	Referred:		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	2	-	1	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

NATURE OF WORK	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of Out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel	4	-	-	-	-	-
Plastics - Fancy Goods	32	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	36	-	-	-	-	-

